

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 101827Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 353

INFO GOV PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER

1. FOREIGN MINISTER JUAN ANTONIO TACK RECEIVED ME AT 11:30 A.M. ON APRIL 9 IN COURTESY CALL TO REQUEST AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT ING. DEMETRIO B. LAKAS FOR PURPOSE OF PRESENTING LETTERS OF CREDENCE AND RECALL. I GAVE COPIES OF LETTERS TO FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. FIRST MEETING WITH TACK WAS CORDIAL, EVEN WARM. MINISTER INDICATED HE WISHED TO ESTABLISH CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP. I SAID THAT I DID NOT WANT TO BOTHER HIM EXCEPT ON REALLY "IMPORTANT MATTERS" AND PERHAPS WE COULD WORK OUT ARRANGEMENT AT LOWER LEVEL FOR LESSER PROBLEMS. MINISTER REFERRED TO "INFORMAL WORKING COMMITTEE" CONSISTING OF ADCM, PANCANAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND SOUTHCOM REPRESENTATIVE, SPEAKING FAVORABLY OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK. WE AGREED THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD CONTINUE IN ITS FUNCTIONS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO CALL ON PRESIDENT LAKAS, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT PRESIDENT WOULD BE LEAVING FOR TAIWAN

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ON APRIL 25 ON OFFICIAL VISIT. HE ALSO MENTIONED LAKAS

WOULD VISIT GREECE IN UNOFFICIAL STATUS.

4. WITH RESPECT TO MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, TACK SAID HE WOULD DEPART ON APRIL 15 FOR WASHINGTON FOR THREE DAYS OF MEETINGS, THENCE TO ATLANTA FOR FIVE DAYS, RETURNING TO WASHINGTON AFTER THE ATLANTA MEETINGS. HE SAID HE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE BUNKER AT THAT TIME AND ALSO HOPED TO HAVE MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER TO REVIEW PROGRESS MADE THUS FAR IN THE CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.
JORDEN

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